



**Start of Else Mentz Fleissner
Collection
AR 11778**

Sys #: 000368549

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: <http://www.lbi.org>



AR 11778 V1

Else Mentz Fleissner Collection, 1901



Wert und Wort

FESTSCHRIFT

für

ELSE M. FLEISSNER

1965

herausgegeben von: Marion Sonnenfeld,
Robert Marshall, Helen Sears, und Barbara Kauber

wells college

Aurora, New York

ELSE MENTZ FLEISSNER was born in Strassburg, studied at the Universities of Strassburg, Jena and Berlin and received the Ph. D. Degree from the University of Freiburg in 1924. A fellowship at Radcliffe College brought her to this country in 1924. In 1925, she became Instructor in German at Hunter College in New York, and in 1926, she accepted an instructorship at the University of Wisconsin. There she met Otto Fleissner, married him, and came with him to Wells College in 1927. Except for the six years during which she had her two sons and prepared them for school, she has taught German at Wells College ever since. Her philosophical and aesthetic approach to literature has appealed to many generations of students and her contagious enthusiasm has fired the spark in many to continue their study of German beyond Wells. One such Fleissner student is a member of the Wells German faculty and a member of the editorial board of this Festschrift. Mrs. Fleissner has also been very active in writing text books and scholarly articles as well as book reviews. She has taught at the Middlebury German School in the summers of 1956, 1959, 1960 and 1962. She served as chairman of the committee of the Modern Language Association which developed German culture tests for teachers, as well as of the committee which developed German reading tests. She was also the editor of the M.L.A. Bibliography of German Culture. In 1964 she founded the Wells Summer School of German.

This Festschrift was planned by several of Mrs. Fleissner's Wells colleagues who wanted to honor her on the occasion of her retirement. As President of the College, I am happy to join in their endeavor.



molacv, *Soviet Literary Theorist*, 3), p. 115).
i literary," (L. N. Tolstoi as *nenii* (Moscow, 1937), Vol. 17,

tory is the great outline and the of irrelevant narrative" (Lewis

London, 1962), p. 20. Unless

ok.
pe, (May, 1964), p. 23. Ignazio ur 'socialist realism' usurps the l would render its true meaning anon which demands from the pressed and terrorized" (quoted ress, 1960), p. 283).
dedness") which Lukacs avoids. *Revolution* (New York, 1963) for ing the 1920's.

k, 1957), p. 205.
ral problem of socialist realism Sozialistischer Realismus heute: *undschau*, Vol. 75, No. 3, 1964, ing this article to my attention! sicc. Michael Oakeshott tells us l bottomless sea; there is neither place nor appointed destination. (London, 1963), p. 97).
on, 1962), p. 356.
at Krushchev's Ouster Means,"

THE WRITINGS OF ELSE MENTZ FLEISSNER

A list compiled by Helen L. Sears

Books

In collaboration with Otto Fleissner:

- Deutschland von Heute und Gestern*. F. S. Crofts, 1930.
Der junge Goethe. Appleton, Century, Crofts, 1932.
Kleine Anthologie deutscher Lyrik. F. S. Crofts, 1935.
Die Kunst der Prosa. F. S. Crofts, 1941.
Goethe in Briefen, Tagebüchern und Gesprächen. Appleton, Century, Crofts, 1949.
Deutsches Literaturlexikon. Appleton, Century, Crofts, 1959.
Der junge Goethe. Houghton Mifflin, 1963. *Rpt.*
Die Welt im Spiel

**

Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, Gustav Adolfs Page und acht Gedichte. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964.

**

Articles and Reviews

- "Zur Phantasie Gottfried Kellers", *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*, Nov.-Dez., 1927.
"Lessing in unserer Zeit?", *The German Quarterly*, March, 1929.
"Ist Clara Viebig konsequente Naturalistin?", *PMLA*, Sept., 1931.
"Gottfried Kellers Sinngedicht", *Monatshefte*, Nov., 1936.
"In Defense of German Idealism", *Germanic Review*, Dec., 1947.
"On Thomas Mann", *Germanic Review*, 1950.
"On Goethe", *Books Abroad*, 1949.
"Problems of Teaching", *Journal of Higher Education*, 1952.
"The Legacy of Kierkegaard", *New Republic*, Dec., 1955.
"German in Our Secondary Schools", *The American-German Review*, Feb.-Mar., 1955, 5-6.

Grillparzer and Biedermeier by P. Drake, *Books Abroad*, Summer, 1955.
Die Mauern standen noch, novel by K. Hocker, *Books Abroad*, Autumn, 1955.
Der Tag des jungen Arztes, bibliographical novel by Hans Carossa, *Books Abroad*, Winter, 1956.
Schloss Ortenau by Otto Flake, *Books Abroad*, Autumn, 1956.
Ein Bündel weisser Narzissen by Louise Rinser, *Books Abroad*, Spring, 1957.
 Several short reviews in *The German Quarterly* and *Books Abroad*.
 Several reviews of French books in *Books Abroad*. The most recent one:
Dialogues des vivants by André Maurois, Spring, 1961.
 Several short reviews in *Books Abroad*, *The German Quarterly*, *The Modern Language Journal*, 1961-1962.
Der andere Rilke by Dieter Bassermann, *Books Abroad*, Winter, 1963.
German Poetry, A Critical Anthology by Robert Browning, *The Modern Language Journal*, May 1963.
The Atoms Within Us by Borek, *Wells Courier*, April, 1963.

**

Articles contributed to *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern European Literature*;
 Columbia University Press, 1947:
 "Ludwig Anzengruber", pp. 28-29.
 "Isolde Kurz", p. 460.
 "Albrecht Schaeffer", p. 724.
 "Ernst Wiechert", p. 871.

**

"German Culture", a selected and annotated bibliography in: *Six Cultures*
 (French, German, Italian, South American, Spanish, Russian) published
 by the Modern Language Association of America, November, 1961.

**

EDITOR'S NOTE

The editorial board would like to thank Christoph Marshall for designing the title page.

**

We would also like to thank Miss Rosalind Conklin, Mrs. W. E. Lauderdale, Mrs.
 R. Schulz, and Mrs. J. G. Van Buskirk for their help in the preparation of the manuscript.

Book's return



Cydney Scott / Staff Photographer

Wells College senior art major Jennifer Zalewski illustrated *The Magic Key*, a children's novel written by the late Wells professor Else Fleissner in 1943. Wells College is publishing the book that was found earlier this year by her son, Robert, while sifting through her drawers. With Zalewski is Margret, one of the book's main characters.

Wells publishes lost children's novel

Class of '99 member illustrates professor Else Fleissner's book from 1943

Matt Sullivan
Staff Writer

AURORA — Once upon a time, the great characters of children's literature came together for one great adventure.

Dwarves, magicians, Peter Pan, and Tom Thumb all took part in a through-the-looking-glass adventures of two children, Teddy and Margret, as they explored the world, made friends, and found reasons to be brave.

And nobody knew about it. Until now.

This fall, Wells College will publish *The Magic Key*, a children's novel written by the late Wells professor Else Fleissner in 1943, and illustrated more than 50 years later by Jennifer Zalewski, member of the class of 1999.

"I think it's a quite pleasant and interesting read," said Bruce Bennett professor of English at

Wells. "I think it's the kind of thing that could be read aloud to children."

It is unusual for college presses to publish children's novels, but it is also unusual to find such a book written by a known scholar more than 10 years after her death, Bennett said.

Fleissner, a professor of German literature at Wells College, co-authored several books with her husband Otto during her time at Wells.

No one knows why Fleissner chose not to release the novel when she wrote it during World War II, though Bennett suspects that she might not have found it serious or scholarly enough to put into print, he said.

Early this year, Fleissner's son, Robert Fleissner, discovered the novel among some of his mother's old papers.

He brought the manuscript to Bennett, who start-

ed the process of getting the book into print.

The story follows two children who, with the help of a magician's magic key, enter into a Wonderland-esque world and have adventures with the famous characters of children's literature.

"I read it and really enjoyed it," said Zalewski, who has drawn art work to accompany each of the novel's 12 chapters. "It's a very whimsical story in the children's literature genre."

Zalewski, a senior from Weedsport, is a visual arts major with minors in creative writing and management.

Knowing her background and her interest in children's literature, Bennett approached her with the project last fall, she said.

"I really enjoy both the writing and the art [in children's books]," Zalewski said. "I'm hoping

See **WELLS**, A5

Wells book back

(Continued from A1)
to get into children's book publishing later [ambiguously]."

She is a "little bit of the same feel" as the book, she says, that Fleissner brought to the novel.

In her favorite picture, Teddy and Margret's story from the roots of trees as they explore the world beneath the earth with the magician.

"The writing of the book is old-fashioned classical," Zalewski said.

The novel assumes a certain familiarity with classic children's literature that modern kids probably do not have.

But it could encourage some people to look up the classic stories, Bennett said.

"It's definitely not obscure," Bennett said. "It's just a good story."

The *Magic Key* is expected to be released in the fall, in time for the 1999 holiday season.





**End of Else Mentz Fleissner
Collection**

